

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

#### THE HANSARD

##### Third Assembly-First session

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022**

The House met at the Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

*[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Oduor Odongo) in the Chair]*

#### PRAYER

#### PAPERS

- a) REPORT OF THE A G ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CONTROL FUND ON THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 1998
- b) REPORT ON THE AG ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT ON THE CONTROL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020

#### MOTION

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR DURING THE OPENING OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY INTERRUPTED ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2022

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, we are aware that we had a debate yesterday on the Governor's address, and we now proceed from where we left yesterday.

**Hon. Rabinya:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the party for having nominated me to Siaya. I applaud the Governor's speech on that day because from the look of things, it seems the Governor has realized that Siaya has enough resources that when utilized can take Siaya residents somewhere.

For example, Lake Victoria has fish, river Nzoia and River Yala are sources of water. Remember there are always complaints that areas like Bondo do not have water, so if they can be utilized well, it would be better. The water we have can also be used in irrigation for us to have enough food.

I would also like to say that I applaud the Governor because he said that during long rainy seasons he would supply Siaya residents with seeds and fertilizers, so that when used well we shall have food security in the County.

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The Governor also promised that he would provide reliable and affordable tractors for ploughing to help residents plough and have food

Also the Governor promised that he would hire qualified technocrats and personnel who would guide farmers especially for graded cows to get enough milk and money, also graded poultry, in the County. I am dwelling so much on the farmers because food security is important

Finally, I would like to thank the Governor because he said we would have our own fish plants which would give our people jobs. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Rose Rabinya the Deputy Majority. Yes Hon. Masidis.

**Hon. Masidis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the people of South East Alego and making History and milestone for women, I being the first woman elected in this position ever since Kenya attained independence.

I promise the people of South East Alego that I will work passionately and I will not let them down. I also assure Siaya County Assembly that I will work together with other Members as a team to ensure the Assembly moves forward.

On the Governor's speech I would like to commend the Governor for his speech which is all inclusive. I would like to make my observations on the speech. The first one is on Agriculture which is very key for the development of Siaya County as a whole and if we get it right then we shall move our people from the abject poverty that most of our people are experiencing.

I like the Kilimo Biashara concept. I would have loved the Governor to talk about the issue of GMOs in Siaya and we would debate about it. We know that there is a discussion at the National level supporting the use of GMOs but we all know there are pros and cons of it.

On the issue of supplying fertilizer, tractors and seeds to farmers, this is critical and everybody is waiting for it because the next planting season is very near. In some areas, the season began in January and for most of us it begins in mid-February or March therefore if we have to prepare the fields then we have to start now.

The main point here is that the ball needs to be rolling if there is anything or any legislation to be passed in this House and be given priority.

There is a statement the Governor used that "this facility will be extended to registered farmers." The word caught my eyes and I asked myself who is a registered farmer? In Siaya County, we do subsistent farming so when the Governor talks of registered farmers as Hon. Member I ask myself if we should mobilize our farmers to go register or something and we should know where they should be registering.

On Blue Economy I would like to encourage it on behalf of people of South East Alego because we have very many unskilled youth who work in different sectors like artisans, miners, mechanics etc but they do not have certifications.

How I wish the Governor recognizes that these skills can be transformed to skilled labour through short training which requires very little funding hence enable these young people to be marketable beyond Siaya.

I know I will have an opportunity to even speak further because have read and analyzed the speech very extensively but I will just want to mention one or two points. One is on Universal Health Care, which I did not hear it mentioned. It is a key that our people have universal health care because it is one of the big five priority areas in the previous Government.

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As a legislator who comes from an area where the cost of health care is expensive, I would wish the Governor speak about it and maybe borrow from other Counties that have already done it.

I was privileged to be informed about the Universal Health Care in the second County Assembly of Kitui where they had a very good pilot targeting the needy and came out with a very affordable health care.

Secondly, I would like to look into the plight of the support staff in our medical and health facilities. I have spoken to the in charge of health facility in my area and one challenge that they are facing is on irregular payment of salaries of support staff that is the gateman, gardener, security and those who dispense medicine.

They have not been paid their salaries in the longest time while at the same time am applauding the Governor for committing to ring fencing the drug but if we don't address the issue of support staff salaries then who will work in those facilities?

Therefore, if there is no regular payment of salaries then we will still experience the disappearance of drugs from our facilities.

Lastly, I want to make an observation to a point which was missing from the speech which I wish he would reconsider is the issue of security. Security in our villages and I speak from my own experience from South Alego where many market places are insecure. The business people are already affected with buglers breaking into their properties in the night while we all know that without security even if we have good plans and policies then we cannot move forward and develop.

This is a key area and needs to be dealt with holistically putting all the key players together so that we can find a lasting solution. Our market centres are slowly but surely dying because of insecurity for example in South East Alego we have Kowiti market, Dondi, Randago, Malanga and Barding. Am saying all this with hope that this will reach the Governor and we will look for ways to enhance security and put money in security so that development can take place in Siaya.

Thank you.

**Hon. Okwiri:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I grew up in a rural set up where people scramble for positions and you look for your own space. In other words, when you start to count, you start with yourself. So I want to start by congratulating myself for making it to the second term, and I also thank the people of West Gem for believing and trusting in me to serve them for the second time.

I would also like to congratulate my fellow Hon. Members both the new ones and those who made it back not forgetting the nominated and I believe that we will work together. I also want to thank the ODM party for allowing me to vie on their party because last time it was not easy for me as I was voted in as independent MCA.

On the speech, I would not want to say much but just to thank the Governor for realizing that Siaya has a lot of potential and he is ready to work with us to serve the people. On Health, I really want to applaud the Governor for choosing to come up with the ICU, which is very important.

During my first term here, I had theatre issues and I thank God it was done in Nairobi because if I could have done it in Siaya maybe I could not be alive today according to the facilities that we have. Hence, I thank him for the idea.

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I also want to thank him for engaging the people of Yala Swamp so that we revive Yala swamp because when I was still in Nairobi I used to carry back the sweet rice planted at Yala swamp when going back from home.

On medical and drugs, I think it is a critical issue as we all know that a healthy Nation is easy to govern and rule. Therefore, I thank the Governor for confirming that he will increase the number of workers at the health facilities as well as the number of drugs.

Thank you.

**Hon. Oguta:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. First, I want to thank the great people of West Uyoma for giving me the chance to represent them in this House, to legislate and to oversight on their behalf. I thank them so much.

I also want to congratulate my fellow colleagues both elected and nominated because we all know that the race was so tight. I want to thank you all and hope that we will work together for the betterment of the people of Siaya.

On the speech, I can say a lot has been covered in very many areas and sectors cutting across maybe land, health, entrepreneurship and a lot more. I agree with the speech and the plans for the Governor but I just have a few observations that I want to share on the Floor.

The Governor talked of food production, which is very important, but I would rather he captured the issue of land ownership. We know now with the population upsurge there has been what we call land fragmentation so for us to achieve what he wants we really need to address the issue of land ownership and again the issue of farming, the areas under access for Agricultural production.

Another key area for me is the feeding program for our kids. He has planned to come up with a feeding programme but again my issue is the timelines in terms of when he wants to start the programme. We know that goals should be measurable and we hope he will give us a guideline on how he wants these activities to operate.

On matters health, we know it is a key priority, that the Health sector in Siaya has been ailing so we want him to walk the talk in terms of corruption. We know that drugs were being sold outside and people were stealing the drugs.

He promised that that will not happen but we really need what is measurable. Corruption was a big thing in the last Government and we really want him to come up with measures so that we have clear goals on how we can develop. All in all the Governor's speech was commendable and I support.

Thank you.

**Hon. Akinyi:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to what has already been said. My name is Cynthia, I am here as specially elected MCA representing the interest of women.

Just a little bit about me, I am a social democrat who believes in fair and just society where everyone gets equal opportunities and equitable distribution of resources. I am passionate about women leadership, the rural woman and fighting to have them on the decision making table. Be it politically, economically, socially and every other facet of life.

That is one of my motivation, to really do something that can improve the position and condition of women in this county and country at large.

I want to give my biggest thanks to the people of Sidindi Ward. I am their wife and for them to see that I am good enough to provide leadership, I really thank them for that. I thank the

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ODM Party for tapping whatever little contribution I can bring. My expertise and experience to give me the opportunity to represent women in this Assembly.

On the Governor's Speech, he talked passionately about water and the dams and all the improvements they have made and those they are planning to make. One thing that I want to remind us is that we must protect our environment so that when we talk about water, food and Kilimo Biashara we also need to ask ourselves the projects that we are doing if sustainable on our environment.

If we destroy our environment today then we will not have a world to live in tomorrow. For that I would like us to have a personal challenge as MCAs of the Assembly and also challenge the Governor and the Executive on the issue of tree planting.

Let us plant trees so that we are not caught up with the challenges of climate change at a time that we are not able to sustain our environment. Our rivers will dry up, we cannot get water and all those kinds of things.

Secondly, I know the speech is a summary of his manifesto. For each and every plan it must be memorable, there must be timelines. We must have targets, we must talk about numbers.

If you want to make roads how long does that bitumen go, how many kilometres are we talking about? If you want to build dams, hospitals how many are we talking about and what is the timeline?

Once we have this, it will be easy for us when the time comes after 5 years to look at what we set out to do. Where we were when we started and what we set out to do and what we have achieved. So that we can for sure point out that when I came in Siaya had only 2 hospitals, I planned to build 5 and I have managed to build 3.

That is one thing that I would like really urge him and push. If he can think of a directorate maybe of research to carry out the need assessment of our people. What do these people want I know we do it in Public Participation but it sometimes might not be very effective. We can look at needs assessment. We need to have a directorate that can do monitoring and evaluation.

These things need to be implemented but who is oversighting if they are being implemented or not. We need to have someone who can help us with monitoring and ascertaining that whatever we set out to do is on the right path and if there are improvements that need to be made and changes that need to be made then those are made along the way so that at the end of it when we look at the impact and evaluation then we can come back with a report and say that this is what we set out to do. This is how far we have gone and this is what we have not achieved.

I would like to urge the Governor to take research as probably a directorate, to take research seriously.

Lastly, I want to say that one thing I respect a lot about the Governor is that he is a protector of human rights so I am sure that this is something that he has worked on in a different space and now that he has opportunity to really make Siaya great and bring a change in the quality of life to the residents of Siaya that he will be able to do it.

I have every confidence in him that he will be able to do it because this is what he has fought for across his career. Now that he has the opportunity I have confidence in him that he will be able to do it and we will support him as an Assembly.

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Lastly, I want to commend him for assuring the Assembly that he will work with us. He will give us space to do our oversight, to critique where possible without victimization or being made to be rubberstamps of what we probably do not understand.

With those few remarks I hope that this is a journey that after 5 years everyone will look back and commend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly and the Governor on the good work that they have done for the people of Siaya.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Cynthia. Yes CPA Okeyo.

**Hon. CPA. Okeyo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to thank the great people of West Asembo for electing me to be in this 3<sup>rd</sup> House. I really want to appreciate their services and I am proud to be here because of them.

I am so happy that for the first time since devolution began we are getting it right. When I listen to the Governor's Speech, the impression that I get is that we have a Governor in place who understands the real problem of the people.

When I look at education and early childhood, I think that is the right direction. The feeding program, that's a welcome move from the Governor's office I appreciate. When I listen to the Governor talk about the healthcare system, how you want to digitize the drug supply in our health facilities. I think that's a welcome move.

When we listen to the Governor talk about Agriculture then I get an impression that we have the right person at the right place. This is something I am happy about as Member from West Asembo.

It is, however, very important to note that throughout the Governor's Speech, he did not mention the numbers. It makes me worried as a lover of figures. It is very important, the speech as basically a policy speech and when the Governor talks about the good things he wants to do for the people of Siaya, then it's also very important for him to quantify and give us the numbers so that we understand whether this is something possible.

You note from the speech that, the Governor was setting a totally different financial objective for the people of this county. When you talk about a different financial objective, there are few things here I want us to note.

The Governor's address is the financial objectives but he did not talk about the financial responsibilities which now give us the figures and the ability to measure or rather to know whether the things he is talking about are achievable or not.

In my own observation whatever the Governor is talking about completely new objectives which may not be in line with the Siaya County Budget and I would like to urge the Governor to consider that in his next speech or when he is changing the financial objectives of a county then he also needs to consider the financial responsibility.

For example when you talk about the Yala Swamp and you know the figures are not mentioned and perhaps it is not anywhere near our financial budget then it makes me wonder how possible is that, when he introduces new things in his speech not quite in our Budget then I get worried.

In the entire speech, he did not mention areas of comparative advantage as a county which I think is something so critical and was worth mentioning. We as a county blessed with several resources but this did not come out from the speech. I would therefore urge the Governor to consider that.

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Another issue that I would also urge the Governor to consider, in his entire speech, he did not talk about the connection between the county government and the national government. We know that county governments as much as they are independent they don't operate in a vacuum or isolation.

There are some areas of connection between the county government and the national government. This did not come out from his speech.

I would therefore urge the Governor in future to consider mentioning such areas because they are very important. We know there is a serious relationship between the national government and the county government. Those are the 3 things I would like to pick up with the Governor's speech.

Otherwise I must admit that I am so happy that for the first time in the history of devolution we have the right person, the right team in the governorship office. This is something I am so proud of and I must mention it to this honorable House. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Okeyo but I wanted to tell the House going by our Standing Orders No. 21 that reminds us about the Governor's Speech. We are reminded that the Motion shall not exceed four sittings therefore we are still within the timeline and I request Members that have not spoken to speak but if we don't get time now then you are reminded that the discussion will still proceed until tomorrow's afternoon session.

**Hon. Osoo:** I thank the ODM party for nominating me to represent the marginalized which is ethnicity. As you know I don't come from this cultural background which is Luo. I am very happy to represent the women of Siaya County and West Ugenya.

The women who were married from cultural backgrounds; I will stand by them and work with them. On the Governor's speech he mentioned that he will improve and upgrade Ukwala hospital. Pregnant women used to be taken to Siaya Referral and from Ukwala to Siaya is a distance. We will appreciate what he will do in Ukwala.

On job creation; youths will at least get something to do. He talked about roads but didn't specify; there is a road in West Ugenya which has been nicknamed 'Nyamkamba road' and everybody fears it when it rains. Sports empowers the young generation and we should encourage them to be active in such activities and nurture them.

**Hon. Arika:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir; today I stand privileged to be part of the Third Assembly. The privilege and the honor has been bestowed upon me by the great people of North Sakwa. I want to pass sincere gratitude to them having seen value in me and for having elected me overwhelmingly by a majority vote of 14,000 which is probably the second highest ever in our County.

I want to tell the North Sakwa people that indeed I am indebted to them and that I shall pay back in a special way for whatever they did on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 by ensuring that I offer a responsible leadership.

I want to assure my people that their trust is not in any way misplaced in my hands; I shall perform my elective responsibility in such a way that it fits their trust to the letter and to the spirit of our constitution. I want to tell the North Sakwa people that my presence in this House is actually their presence.

I want to assure them that I will speak with everybody irrespective of their political persuasions. I will speak to every special groups, women, youth and persons living with disability. I am a first time Member in this Assembly; my names are Hon. Oliver Arika born and

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raised in a small village in Gobei in North Sakwa, Bondo Sub County. I am married to one wife with three children and in summary I am a family man.

I know this gentleman is asking how he will make his way into this Assembly. I started my political journey a year ago in 2021; I went into the murky waters of politics to contest for the post of MCA and luckily today I won and thank God for this.

The star and seed that the North Sakwa people planted in me on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 has eventually grown very broadly that did enable me to garner 17 votes when I contested for the post of Deputy Speaker. This is the greatest achievement ever in my life.

A first time MCA winning the confidence of 17 Members of this Hon. House was not a simple thing. I wouldn't leave without expressing my sincere appreciation to the 17 Hon. Members for having placed their confidence in me. I want to tell them that a mouth may lack teeth but it is still a mouth.

I want to assure you that I will serve you at whatever level; even if it means dusting your seats before you take them up I will be ready to do that. It happens that I come from the same village with the Right Hon. Raila Odinga who has rally done a great job to the Republic of Kenya and it is the same Hon. Person that did contribute to the devolution that we are enjoying.

I want to confess that I cannot fit in the shoes of the Right Hon. Raila Odinga so to speak but going forward I want to learn from his lesson so that I can fit in my shoe. I want to be able to speak up in this House, I want to be able to perform my Constitutional roles and of course I will perform them without demonization of checks and balances.

On the issue of the Governor's speech; I want to state that for the first time we have a Governor who is very detailed and careful. It was the Governor who during his speech talked about economy and is very key in ensuring that the economy of this County is placed where it belongs.

The Governor talked about revival of Dominion rice industry; any person that talks about creation of industry is a futuristic person. A person who looks into the future, creates it to ensure that the future generation benefits from it.

The Governor talks about increasing the Ward allocation fund which to me is very important because that is the key thing when it comes to Devolution and distributing of the resources to the very last person.

In summary, the Governor had the details, the contents, the plans, and the roadmap to ensure that he delivers the services to the people. How I wish all the Hon. Members in this House would be instrumentals in their representative, legislative and oversight roles so as to ensure that the Governor delivers what he promises the great people of Siaya.

Lastly, leadership requires maturity and one thing about maturity is less concerned with how many birthdays someone has celebrated. Let alone how old someone is or how long someone has been in this House. Maturity is concerned with what kind of experience one has gone through and the type of lessons these individuals have been able to learn from these experiences.

I want to confirm that within one month that I have been in this House I have gone through a lot of experience and I have been able to learn from experience. I hereby confirm that I am ready to take up my role as the representative of North Sakwa people so help me God.



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**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** As I said earlier that the deliberations will continue tomorrow, I request those who have not contributed to be patient until tomorrow as we proceed to the next order.

Hon. Members before we stand up for adjournment I would direct that the two Papers that were tabled that is General Audit's report be directed to PIC/PAC Committee.

Let's us be upstanding for adjournment.

**MOTION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** There being no other business the House stands adjourned until Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 2.30pm in the Chambers.

The House rose at 3.47p.m.